

Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
Wednesday, September 3, 2003  
HR Pinnacle Room  
7575 E. Main Street

Present: Chairperson Shelley Anderson, Vice-chair Leigh Hersey, Commissioners David Fortney, Bill Heckman, Stephen Owens, and Nona Oliver

Absent: Commissioner Lynn Timmons Edwards

Staff Present: Debra Baird, Tom Beat, Jona Davis, Terry Erickson, Bob Gwinn, Scott Hamilton, Tara Laster, Mark Lescoe, Jeanne Jones, Gary Meyer, Bill Murphy, Doug Nesselroad, Tiffani Nichols, Don Penfield, Chris Thom, Judy Weiss, and Rose Williams

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Anderson called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed.

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Heckman moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 6, 2003 as submitted. Vice-chair Hersey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Debra Baird, Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities introduced the agenda items – Capital Improvement Projects, Program/Plan Updates, and Fees and Charges – Impact and Maintenance of Sports Fields.

#### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Staff gave an update and overview of the Capital Improvement Projects including aging infrastructure and new facilities. Included in the update will be Scottsdale Stadium, Path Lighting; Tennis Court Reconstruction, Hidden Hills Trailhead, CAP Basin; LaMirada Desert Park, Chaparral Park, Chaparral Pool Building, McDowell Mountain Ranch, Cochise Fields; and the Off Leash Activity Area at Horizon Park

##### CAP Basin

Commissioner Heckman asked how people will access from the parking north of Princess to the Phoenix Open. Mr. Meyer said the overpass will carry vehicles and pedestrians. Shuttles will park at the southeast corner of the site and transport people to and from Westworld and remote parking sites. Commissioner Heckman asked if the lights for the basketball courts are still planned. Mr. Meyer said they were still in the plan. Commissioner Heckman asked what traffic control will keep traffic from going into the residential neighborhood west of Hayden. Mr. Meyer said traffic will not be able to enter to the west of Hayden along Princess Drive and there already is a traffic diverter at the intersection of Hayden and Princess. Commissioner Heckman asked how many parking spaces are planned. Mr. Meyer said there are 857 in the design.

##### Chaparral Park Expansion

Commissioner Heckman asked how will the treatment plant be buffered from the neighborhood. Mr. Meyer said the plant is recessed into the grade and will be a very attractive building. There is truck access to the east and there will also be a pedestrian path to the east. Commissioner Heckman asked where the parking is for the off leash area. Mr. Meyer said there will be 203 spaces adjacent to the current parking lot along Hayden Road. Commissioner Heckman asked if the fields were multi-use. Mr. Meyer said they were with the north field limited to youth activities.

#### Hidden Hills Trailhead

Chairperson Anderson asked how someone with a horse trailer would get out of the north parking area if they mistakenly entered. Ms. Baird said signage could be used to let them know that no trailers should enter. Chairperson Anderson said it would be a good idea to put the signage prior to the entrance. Commissioner Heckman asked how users will connect from the south lot to the upper lot. Mr. Meyer said there is a trail along the southern edge of road and through the wash under Via Linda. Commissioner Oliver asked if there is a ramada. Mr. Meyer said there was one planned for the southern lot. Commissioner Oliver said she remembered that residents didn't want a ramada. Mr. Meyer said the concerns were about the north area and the ramada is in the south area away from residential lots.

#### McDowell Mountain Ranch Park/Aquatics Center

Vice-chair Hersey asked if the skatepark gets moved will the parking also move. Ms. Weiss said it would move about 200 feet. Commissioner Heckman asked what is the latest on the loop road and that access. Ms. Weiss said the intent is to build the loop road and it is in the budget.

#### Path Lighting

Commissioner Heckman asked if the new path lights are intentionally taller. Mr. Penfield said they were intentionally taller, 60-80 feet apart, and on a concrete base. The new fixtures minimize "stray" light spillage. Commissioner Heckman asked if there is there the same number of poles. Mr. Penfield said there are many more so as to provide continuous lighting along the path. This was done to meet safety standards by eliminating the many existing dark spots.

#### Park Signage

Commissioner Heckman noted that he does not see any relevance in the design to the desert or to Scottsdale. He also worries about the safety aspect, as the signs appear to be sharp. He would prefer to see something reflective of the desert southwest. Chairperson Anderson agrees with Commissioner Heckman about the signage. Commissioner Owens asked if the decision has already been made on the signage. Ms. Baird noted that the Commission had previously seen a presentation and the Arts Council was involved in the decision. Ms. Weiss noted that there are a couple of additional color schemes. She said that the edges are not sharp and Risk Management has reviewed and approved the design. Commissioner Oliver asked if the sign was 3 different colors. Ms. Weiss said it was, yellow, olive and a purple. Commissioner Oliver would like to see a copper color. Ms. Baird noted that this is how the artist's design was and, the primary concern stated so far by residents, has to do with the size of the lettering. Commissioner Heckman recalls that the vote was on the concept of the sign and not the design. Ms. Baird said staff would research that and get the information to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Heckman asked, based on budget issues, can we count on the stated timelines for funding and completion of these projects. Mr. Penfield said at this point all of these are on schedule. Barring any drastic events they are realistic timelines. Ms. Baird noted that the operating costs have not been budgeted for as yet but we are optimistic that the Council will support these projects.

#### PROGRAM/PLAN UPDATES

Staff updated the Commission on the Trails Master Plans, Eldorado Pool, Eldorado concert series, Summer Recreation Programs, the upcoming meeting on the Community Services Master Plan, and proposed San Francisco Giants facilities.

#### Trails Master Plan

Commissioner Fortney asked how plans were coming along for a trail along the CAP. Mr. Hamilton said it has not been built but is a part of the overall trails Master Plan. The City is part of a partnership with Phoenix, Glendale, Mesa, and ADOT in a feasibility study that is looking at the entire corridor and where there are issues.

#### Eldorado Pool

Commissioner Heckman asked why the total attendance is so much larger than the numbers stated added together. Ms. Davis said the attendance numbers include programming but only for 2 weeks in July compared to the entire month in 2002. Most of the increase was a result of open swim.

#### Summer Recreation Programs

Commissioner Heckman asked how much to parents pay for the afterschool programs. Ms. Erickson said it is a free program currently. Staff has been discussing fees for this program for the next the budget process. Commissioner Heckman noted if the program did not exist children would be somewhere where the parents would probably be paying for their care.

#### Off Leash Area at Horizon

Commissioner Heckman asked if the citizens are aware of the matching fund program the City has available. Ms. Baird noted the Partnership Funds are limited to ballfields and youth sports amenities. City employees provided much of the labor for the improvements to the Off Leash Area. Chairperson Anderson has seen it and thinks it looks great. Commissioner Oliver asked if the dogs are able to press a button to activate the water flow. Mr. Gwinn said the owner must press the button to activate the flow of water.

#### Coronado Golf Course

Commissioner Heckman feels that the outcry from the users is going to be pretty loud. What kind of answer is there to these users. Mr. Beat said staff has had discussions on that issue but have not discussed with them the ability to replace the services. In all probability, the course can't exist at the level of play as it is now. The operator is leaving in 2005 so he is not maintaining the infrastructure. Staff has not found another location to facilitate this. Funding for this complex comes from the TSA and other non-city budgeted funds. Acquisition costs are minimal and proximity to the stadium is good. Vice-chair Hersey asked if anyone has spoken with the Fire Department on the impact parking and traffic may have on the station that is there. Mr. Beat said those conversations have not occurred as yet. Vice-chair Hersey asked if development would start after 2005 and was the timeline okay with the Giants. Mr. Beat said the project would begin after the lease ended in order to be completed for the 2006 Spring Training Season and the Giants were aware of the timeline. Commissioner Fortney asked if, as a part of this project, the City would be improving Indian School Park. Mr. Beat said there would be some improvements as to aesthetics and expansion of the locker rooms and Club Sar. Commissioner Owens asked what is the typical length of a spring training contract. Mr. Beat said this agreement would require a minimum 20-year commitment from Charros and Giants. Commissioner Oliver asked if the property would be purchased from the private owner. Mr. Beat said the intent is to acquire it through a purchase agreement. Chairperson Anderson asked if the adjacent businesses have been notified. Mr. Beat said staff did provide information to the center to the east and also to all the apartments and homes in the area. Chairperson Anderson asked if the parking would be sufficient as a lack of parking may affect the businesses. Mr. Beat said practices don't typically draw a large crowd.

#### FEES AND CHARGES - IMPACT AND MAINTENANCE OF SPORTS FIELDS

Staff updated the Commission on the Fees and Charges including the impact of usage fees on the user groups and the maintenance sports fields.

#### Swim Lesson Times

Commissioner Oliver feels that reducing the swim time from 45 to 30 minutes should be re-addressed. It doesn't seem long enough. Ms. Davis said the time was adjusted based on guidelines from the American Red Cross. Staff benchmarked the times throughout the valley and found that 30 minutes was an average time for lessons. The feedback has been fairly positive except for the older children. Staff may change the length of lessons for older children.

#### Fees to Youth Sports Organizations

Commissioner Owens noted that there are families that may have problems paying the added fees. Ms. Weiss noted that most Youth Sports groups have scholarship programs so that any child that wants to play should be able to play. Commissioner Owens noted the projection shows \$200,000 in revenue and costs of \$106,000. Where will the difference go. Ms. Weiss said the costs as well as revenues are estimates. We have already found that the costs are greater due to the increased services needed. Staff based the \$200,000 in revenue on the field time that was used by organizations last year. Those hours will probably become more efficient and be reduced. This will be re-evaluated at the end of the period. Commissioner Fortney noted one reason for starting this process was because leagues that play at school sites are playing on less than standard fields than leagues that play in parks. Park field users also get the benefit of park maintenance without any cost to them. This is not

a north south issue. It is a school/park thing. There are not enough park fields to have everyone play on them in order for maintenance to be equal. He thinks that the estimate of \$21 per child is high. Little Leagues pay \$60 per game from their fund for umpires so they should not complain about \$6.

#### Public Testimony

Bruce Frank noted that most in attendance tonight are business people and work in the community. We see something about increased costs every day. Leagues do raise additional funds of about \$20,000 each year. The leagues appreciate the Partnership Funding. The League Board is fighting to build the field and then having to pay \$3 to use the same field. As a way to soften the blow the league should bet an offset against the fees they are paying to manage it. The Little League has put \$4,000 each year into fence improvements. Overall Scottsdale has some of the best fields in the state and country.

Ms. Weiss noted these are good comments and Staff will take note of them. Staff has struggled with the economics of this. School fields are a liability and are unsafe for play. The question is how does the City provide the service. There are some inequities but everyone pitches in. We will look at this throughout the year and re-evaluate it at the end of the year.

Chairperson Anderson asked if after a year could the Partnership Funding be considered for these leagues. Ms. Weiss said there is a moratorium on those funds for this year. Using those funds for maintenance in the future could be considered but that would lessen the availability of funds for improvement projects.

Chairperson Anderson noted a letter was received from Larry Heath on this issue and it will be place in the permanent public record.

Chairperson Anderson thanked staff on behalf of the Commission for this informative presentation.

#### OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)

Chairperson Anderson asked if there were any items from the floor. There were none.


#### ADJOURNMENT

Vice-chair Hersey moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fortney seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to be brought before the Commission, Chairperson Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Johnson, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Debra Baird", is written over a light blue rectangular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Debra Baird, Director  
Parks, Recreation & Facilities